

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W
----- 128748

R 241754Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3880

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 17506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PFOR WB GW US UK FR

SUBJECT: INVITATIONS TO MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES IN
WEST BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 2145; (B) BONN A-387; (C) BONN 15546;

(D)

1. NOT UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, THERE SEEMS TO BE A
CONTINUING FAILURE OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FRG AND WEST
BERLIN AUTHORITIES ON QUESTION OF INVITATIONS TO INTER-
NATIONAL MEETINGS IN BERLIN. OCTOBER 23 BONN GROUP
DISCUSSION, WHICH POINTED UP FACT THAT FRG HAS NOT YET
ACCEPTED ALLIED VIEW THAT SENAT MUST JOIN IN INVITATIONS
TO ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, ALSO PRODUCED
CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF INCIDENT DESCRIBED
IN REF (A).

2. FRG REP (LUECKING) TOLD ALLIES ON OCTOBER 23, WITH
REFERENCE TO THE ALLIED DEMARCHE OF SEPTEMBER 11 (REF D),
THAT THE FONOFF HAD PREPARED A PAPER FOR THE FOREIGN
MINISTER EXPLAINING THE INVITATIONS PROBLEM. THE ISSUE
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WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM

BERLIN, THE FEDERAL CHANCELLERY, AND OTHER AGENCIES BEFORE THE PAPER WENT TO THE MINISTER, AND AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING HAD BEEN SET FOR OCTOBER 30. LUECKING CONTINUED THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOT A SIMPLE ONE FOR THE GERMANS; JUST THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF COMPLYING WITH ALLIED WISHES WERE COMPLEX. IT WOULD BE NECESSARY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO INFORM ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF THE LIMITATIONS ON THEIR ABILITY TO EXTEND INVITATIONS, BUT TO DO SO IN A WAY WHICH WOULD NOT GIVE RISE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND THE RESULTANT PUBLICITY WHICH BOTH THE FRG AND THE ALLIES WOULD WISH TO AVOID. HE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS PROVIDING THIS STATUS REPORT SIMPLY TO LET THE ALLIES KNOW THE FRG WAS CONTINUING TO WORK ON THE PROBLEM.

3. THE US REP STATED THAT, LEAVING ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT THE BROADER QUESTION OF HANDLING FUTURE INVITATIONS, THE ALLIES WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE FRG HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING THE SENAT TO SEND A LETTER CONCERNING THE NOVEMBER 11-13 COLLOQUY OF THE POPULATION AND REFUGEE COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. HE RECALLED THAT THE ALLIES HAD STATED THAT THEY CONSIDERED IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO HAVE SUCH A LETTER WHICH COULD BE POINTED TO AS AN "INVITATION" IN THE EVENT OF A SOVIET PROTEST ON THIS MEETING, TO WHICH REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAD BEEN INVITED. LUECKING THEN LAUNCHED INTO AN EMOTIONAL PRESENTATION ON THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH THIS ALLIED REQUEST POSED FOR THE FRG. LATER IN THE DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, HE SCANNED HIS FILES AND SAID THE PARTICULAR COUNCIL OF EUROPE COLLOQUY HAD BEEN SETTLED LONG AGO. MEICHNSER OF THE BERLIN REPRESENTATION HAD APPROACHED LUECKING WITH ANGUISH ON SEPTEMBER 23, SAYING THAT THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA HAD ASKED THE SENAT TO SEND A LETTER AND SEEKING LUECKING'S ADVICE ON WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT IT. LUECKING CLAIMED TO HAVE TOLD MEICHNSER THAT, IF THE ALLIED KOMMANDATURA WANTED A LETTER, THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT TO SEND IT; THE MATTER HAD THEREFORE BEEN DISPOSED OF.

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4. ALL THREE ALLIED REPS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS INFORMATION, WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO THE BONN GROUP.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, INVITATIONS, MEETINGS, DEMARCHE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN17506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750371-0954
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751021/aaaaasol.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BONN A-387, 75 BONN 15546
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVITATIONS TO MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES IN WEST BERLIN
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, US, UK, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006